

# **Line No. 1903 Pipeline Conversion Project**

*Noxious Weed Protection Plan*



## NOXIOUS WEED PROTECTION PLAN

---

Noxious weed control practices for El Paso's Line No. 1903 Pipeline Conversion Project were developed from existing Noxious Weed Management Plans in other Plan of Developments (PODs) near the project area. The purpose of the weed protection plan is to prescribe methods to prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds during and following construction on federal and state land.

During field surveys conducted in December 2000 and February 2001, three noxious weed species were identified and recorded in various locations: Russian thistle (*Salsola iberica*); Tamarix (*Tamarix* sp.); and yellow-star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). The tamarisk and yellow-star thistle are listed as Exotic Invasive Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern as of 1996, by the California Exotic pest Plant Council (Bossard, et. al. 2000).

Where noxious weeds were identified, the following preventative measures will be implemented on federal and state lands to prevent the spread of noxious weeds along the construction right-of-way (ROW). These locations include construction at MP 0.0, 34.8, 36.05, 36.2, 50.36, 56.0, 63.7, 82.69, 105.9, 113.97, 117.0, 118.0, 118.5, 119.0, 119.7, 120.0, 120.3, 121.2, 123.0, and 247.7 (Danby Lake).

- All construction equipment and project vehicles will arrive at the work site clean and weed free.
- Compressed air will be used to remove seeds, roots, and rhizomes from the equipment in known infestation areas prior to transport from the site. Alternately, truck wash stations may be used for this purpose, dependent upon available water and the direction of the BLM.
- In areas with known infestations within the work area, vegetation and topsoil will be graded and stockpiled on the side of the ROW adjacent to the area from which they were stripped to isolate soil that may contain noxious weed seeds. This action will reduce the potential for following construction equipment to transport seeds, roots, or rhizomes down the ROW.
- Reclamation of disturbed areas will be implemented immediately following construction.
- Fertilizer will not be applied to reclaimed areas with known weed infestations, since nutrients can enhance the growth of weeds.
- Straw bales used for sediment barriers or mulch will be certified weed-free.

Post-construction monitoring and treatment of weed infestation on the ROW will be implemented as needed.